

# FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

September 20, 2011

Williams Science Center

*Library Auditorium*

*12:30-2:00pm*

**Members Present:** Yan Searcy, William Jason Raynovich, Sarah Buck, Tonya Hall, Sharon O'Donnell, Eddy Gaytan, Sabita Busch, Judy Birgen, Asare Nkansah, Barbara Price, Athanase Gehungu, Kathy Rosa, Anser Azim, Phillip Beverly, Margaret A. Kelly, Ben C. Liu, Alesia Richardson, Behrooz Saghafi, Suresharani Paintal, Chandral Cabraal, Elizabeth Arnott-Hill, William Martin, Gabrielle Toth, Lorraine Lozouskas, Rob Richter, Devi Potluri, David Harmon, Heather Fields, Ben Liu, Elizabeth Wittbrodt, Soo Kang, Alesia Richardson, John Erickson, Steven Rowe, William Martin, Robert Bionaz

**Visitors:** Philip Cronce, Mohamand Salahuddin, Kathleen Haefliger, David Kanis

## **I. Welcome and Introductions/Check-in**

Begun at 12:35pm by Yan Searcy.

## **II. Review and approval of minutes (May 2k11 & September 2k11)**

There were a number of corrections. Sen. Potluri requested that the faculty senate place the correction in a new revised set of minutes that the faculty would vote on. In considering the request, Faculty Senate President (FPS) Searcy asked Faculty Senate Vice-President (FSVP) Beverly about formal procedures in approving minutes and specifically Robert's Rules. Beverly said that this was not necessary. It is at the discretion of the president of the faculty senate to choose to continue as we have in the past.

### **RULING:**

Searcy ruled that we would continue to do revise minutes at the beginning of meeting and after corrections would be voted for approval as we have done in the past.

## **III. Reports**

FPS Searcy met with a member of the Board of Trustees. FPS Searcy said it was a positive meeting. Searcy reported the concern about the lack of communication between administration and faculty. While the Board of Trustee member may agree with the concept of "shared governance," he does not believe in "shared decision making." He respects the process and while he is not involved in the day to day. The Trustee understood FSP Searcy's position and importance of shared governance.

### **a. Academic Affairs issues**

Academic Affairs committee met and discussed the placement exams for English and Reading. Math had passed last session.

The committees rephrased the English and Reading Exams to the language of the Math placement exam. The "36-month" timeline was explained further.

Continued questions arose from the submitted materials.

FSVP Beverly: Clarified a point of order, Faculty Senate may vote to approve a report, which means the senate approves the recommendations.

Due to more concerns, MOTION IS TABLED until next meeting.

**b. College Restructuring**

No action

**c. DACs and Retention**

No action

**IV. New Academic Year Business**

No action

**a. Enrollment and Retention**

No action

**b. Classrooms and Scheduling**

No action

**c. Bookstore**

No action

**V. Old Business**

**a. Shared Governance Issues**

Searcy wanted to reconsider the motion passed last faculty senate session to change the faculty senate membership. He wanted to revisit the motion and revise it to:

**The faculty senate moves for suspension of the rules concerning elected faculty senate representation on the Faculty Senate and that for the remainder of the 2011-2012 academic year each discipline with tenured or tenure track faculty will be represented by an elected faculty member in the respective discipline as a voting member of the Faculty Senate. Those disciplines with more than six tenured or tenure track faculty will have two elected representatives. The election is to be held among the faculty the respective discipline.**

Searcy opened the new motion for discussion.

Senator: Concerned about disciplines with only one faculty member.

Sen. Potluri: Once rules are suspended we cannot change the rules.

FSVP Beverly: You can introduce this new motion.

FSVP Beverly: Moved for the motion to be considered.

Motion seconded

Sen. Busch: Concerned about making changes such as these quickly.

FSVP Beverly: This was a scheduled topic for the September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Sen. Paintal: Why is this being done in the middle of a semester?

FSP Searcy: Due to the changes and restructuring, we were concerned about the changes to the membership of the faculty senate and faculty losing a voice. The proposed solution attempts to make sure that faculty have a voice and we do not lose disciplines.

FSVP Beverly: The colleges most affected were Education and Arts & Sciences.

Sen. Busch: What was the original representation from Arts and Sciences?

FSVP Beverly: The concentration and increase was not just in Arts & Sciences. Additionally, the new proposal still would make sense given that Arts and Sciences is the largest body.

Sen. Potluri: Why not make this a bylaws change?

FSVP Beverly: It would take longer. We should wait for consistency before we change the bylaws.

Senator: Some departments may have more than two senators.

FSVP Beverly: It is capped at two senators for a department.

Liu: His department has only two disciplines. Therefore his department would be capped at four senators.

Searcy: Closed discussion

#### **Voting on motion:**

**The faculty senate moves for suspension of the rules concerning elected faculty senate representation on the Faculty Senate and that for the remainder of the 2011-2012 academic year each discipline with tenured or tenure track faculty will be represented by an elected faculty member in the respective discipline as a voting member of the Faculty Senate. Those disciplines with more than six tenured or tenure track faculty will have two elected representatives. The election is to be held among the faculty the respective discipline.**

Senator: Wanted to voice a concern. Some colleges are going to be represented less. The senate is going to create a different situation.

14 yea. 8 nays. Abstentions 3.

MOTION PASSES.

## **VI. Open/Agenda Setting**

FSP Searcy wanted to consider setting the agenda and make sure we are action-oriented. These should be actionable items.

Sen. Toth: Encourage faculty in the accreditation process.

Senator: Develop policies in terms of shared governance based on the Board of Trustees determination that the faculty has more involvement in program change and curriculum. It seemed to come about through fiat, using the Senior Thesis and the Masters Thesis issues as examples. This is not a participatory democracy. There are certain members of the administration who are not qualified to make determinations of what is required for curriculum.

Sen. Liu: Remembered when the President came on board he said he would focus also on research.

He has seen nothing occur to make that happen.

FSP Searcy: The Provost said that there would be more funds to help with faculty development. He also clarified the wish is for accountability for academic decisions from the administration.

Dr. Cronic: Need for better communication and notifications of decisions made by the administration. Also, require rationale for the decisions made. To illustrate this, there are far fewer campus-wide forums.

Senator: Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration on campus and off-campus.

Sen. Potluri: This is all well and nice. There is an equal response that the faculty needs to be involved as well. Issues needing response cannot wait for ever. We act too slowly. He used the example of Gen Ed. Outcomes. Liz Ozika is helpful with getting research CUEs. We should look at ourselves as well.

FSP Searcy: Encourage faculty timely responsiveness should be the agenda item.

Sen. Price: How are we going to quantify these? These words like “encourage” are nice, but what are we are going to do.

FSP Searcy: The faculty is limited in its ability to change the administration.

Sen. Raynovich: Bolster Academic Affairs with support from Faculty Senate.

FSP Searcy: Not sure what we can do to help Academic Affairs.

Sen. Price: Is there an established process?

FSP Searcy: Yes there is.

Sen. Toth: Rules are seemingly circumnavigated.

Sen. Liu: How many committees are not assigned and not filled?

FSP Searcy: Committees which met and fulfilled their duties stopped holding meetings. Essentially some committees stopped meeting.

Sen. O’Donnell: Invitations to be members of committees used to come from Faculty Senate. She also had a difficulty filling positions such as chair and secretary in a committee she was chair of.

FSP Searcy: It is the responsibility of each senator to convey messages to the faculty in your department from the Faculty Senate President.

Sen. Kang: Proposed reviewing all subcommittees in the Faculty Senate.

Sen. Rosa: Can you create a committee to review the committees of Faculty Senate?

FSP Searcy: Asked Sen. Rosa if she was offering to chair a committee to review all subcommittees.

**MOTION: Kathy Rosa would chair a committee to review all subcommittees.**

**MOTION was passed unanimously.**

FSVP Beverly: Encouraged faculty to surrender any hope of seeing outcomes from this process. This is simply about creating a paper trail and showing that we were doing our job. For instance, when the accreditation body comes to meet with us, we should at show our due diligence.

Senator: Suggested the wording “insist” instead of “encourage” with regards to full faculty participation.

We are going to operationalize this, but we are going to do this electronically. We should share this with our respective disciplines. These should change into action items and accountability.

Senator: The overarching goal is “What?”

FSP Searcy: To improve working conditions for the university.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by William Jason Raynovich